

Serial No.: 11/705,494
Filing Date: November 10, 2003

Art Unit: 3726
Examiner: J.C. Hong

REMARKS

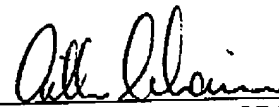
This Amendment is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §312, as it is after the mailing of a Notice of Allowance and concurrently with the payment of the Issue Fee.

Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment merely addresses a formal matter and does not change the scope of the claims and does not require any substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Office. Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that this Amendment does not require any additional searching or examination and was not presented earlier because this issue was not recognized until after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance and in anticipation of the payment of the Issue Fee.

In the event any issues remain which prevent the entry of this Amendment or the granting of a patent, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted so that such issues can be resolved.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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